

THE SPEECH OF
AN HONOURABLE
PEER
IN THE HOUSE OF
LORDS.

MY Lords your appointing the consideration of the state of *England* to be taken up in a Committee of the whole House sometime next week : I do not know how that I have to say may be received ; for I never study to make my Court well, or to be Popular : I always speak what I am commanded by the Dictates of the Spirit within me. There are some considerations that concern *England* so near, that without them you will come far short of safety at home. [*We have a little Sister and She hath no Breasts, what will become of our Sister in the Day when She shall be spoken of all : If She be a Wall we will Build upon her a Palace of Silver : If she be a Door we will close her with Boards of Cedar*] We have several little Sisters without Breasts : The *French Protestant Church*, and the two Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *Ireland* : The Foraigne Protestants are the only Wall of Defence to *England*, on which you may Build Glorious Palaces of Silver ; the Protection of the Protestants abroad are the greatest Power and Security the Crown of *England* can attain unto, and which can only help us to give a Check to the growing Greatness of *France*. *Scotland* and *Ireland* are two Doores that let in either Good or Mischeif upon us, they are much weakened by the Artifice of our cunning Enemies, and we ought to enclose them with Boards of Cedar. Popery and Slavery like 2 Sisters go hand in hand, sometimes one goes first sometimes the other in a Dores, but the other is alwaies following close at hand. In *England* Popery was to have brought in Slavery. In *Scotland* Slavery went before and Pöpery was to follow. I do not think your Lordships, or the Parliament have any Jurisdiction there, it is a Noble and Ancient Kingdom, they have an Illustrious Nobility, a Gallant Gentry, a Learned Clergy ; and an understanding Worthy People, but yet we can't think of *England* as we ought without the reflecting on the condition they are in. They are under the same Prince, the same Favourites and Councils ; they are hardly dealt with, can we that are Richer expect better usage : For 'tis certain that in all absolute Governments the Poorest Countrys are most Favourably dealt with ; when the Ancient Nobility and Gentry there cannot enjoy their Royalties, Shrieftömes and Stuarties, which they and their Ancestors have possessed for several hundred Years ; but that they are now enjoyed by the Lords of the Council, to make Deputation of their Authority to such as are their known Enemies. Can we expect to enjoy our *Magna Charta* long under the same Persons and Administrations of Affairs : If the Council Table there can Imprison any Nobleman and Gentleman for several Years without bringing them to a Tryal, or giving the least reason for what they do, can we expect the

the same Men will respect the same Liberty of the Subject here. I will acknowledg I am not well versed in the Laws of Scotland, but this I know, that all the Northern Countries have by their Laws an undoubted an inviolable Right to their Liberties and Properties: Yet Scotland hath out done all the Eastern and Southern Countries, in having their Laws, Liberties and Estates subjected to the Arbitrary Will and Pleasure of those that Govern. They have lately plundered and harased the Richest and Wealthiest Countys of that Kingdom, and brought down the Barbarous *Highlanders* to Devour them; and all this without almost a coularable preence to do it: Nor can there be found any Reason of State for what they have done, but that those wicked Ministers designed to procure a Rebellion at any Rate, which as they managed it was only prevented by the Miracalous hand of God, or otherwise the Papist in England would have been Armed and the fairest opportunity given in the just time for the Execution of that Bloody, and Wicked designe the Papest had, & tis not possible for any Man that duly considers to think it other, but that those Ministers that Acted that are as guilty of the Plot, as any of the Lords that are in question for it: My Lords I am forced to speak this the plainer, because till the Pressure be fully and clearly taken off from Scotland, tis not possible for me or any thinking Man to believe that good is meant us here, we must still be upon our Guard, apprehending that the Principle is not changed at Court, and these Men are still in Place and Authority, have the Influence and Mind of our Excellent Prince, that is not nor cannot be that to us which his own Nature and Goodness would incline him to. I know your Lordships can order nothing in this, but there are those that hear me can put a perfect Cure to it, and till that be done this Scotch Weed is like *Moss in Olla*; but there is something too, now I consider more immediately Concerns us, their Act for two hundred and twenty thousand Men to be ready to Invade us on all occasions, this I hear the Lords of the Council there have Enacted as they do all other Lawes and Expound it a standing Army of 6000, Men. I answer we have reason and right to beseech the King that that Act may be better considered in the next Parliament there, I shall say no more for Scotland at this time, I am afraid your Lordships will think I have said to much, having no concern there; But if a French Nobleman should come to dwell in my House and my Family, I think it should concern me to ask what he did in France, for if he were there a Felon, Rogue or Plunderer I should desire him to live elsewhere, I hope your Lordships will think fit to do the same thing for the Nation, if you find the same Cause.

My Lords give me leave to speake 2 or 3 words concerning our other Sister Ireland thither I heare is sent Douglas's Regiment to secure us against the French, besides I am Credebly Informed that Papists have their Arms Restored, and the Protestants are not many of them yet recovered from being the suspected party, the Sea Towns as well as Inlands are full of Papist that Kingdom cannot long continue in English hands if some better care be not taken of it, this is in your power and there is nothing there but what is under your Lawes, therefore I beg this Kingdom at least may be taken into consideration, together with the state of England, for I am sure there can be no safety here if these Doors are not shut up and safe.